Sangeet Natak Academy

†2979. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for promotion of Sangeet Natak Academy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous organisation set up and fully funded by the Government of India in the Department of Culture. It is devoted to the furtherance of the performing arts in India. The management of the Akademi vests in the General Council supported by the Executive Board, which exercises direction and control over the affairs of the Akademi. Since it is an autonomous body, the Akademi can take its own decision regarding its policies and programmes.

Recovery in Tourist Traffic

2980. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel that aggressive marketing and slew of budgetary allocations and concessions had led to dramatic recovery in tourist traffic in later part of 2002 and early 2003;

(b) whether promotional campaign has been launched in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata simultaneously to attract tourists to Nepal as Nepal Tourism Board has identified its Indian neighbours as the largest tourists visiting Himalayan Kingdom; and

(c) to what extent it has given fillip to tourists of both countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) During the period October, 2002 to June, 2003, the international tourist arrivals in India have increased from 17,70,882 to 19,92,362 which is a growth rate of 12.5%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.